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4 DEC 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with DD/S, 2 December 1963, on Far East Air Lift

1. The morning of 2 December Col. White called to tell me that [] of the IC's Staff, recently returned from TDY is [] had discussed with him a conversation he [] had had with Brigadier General Edward Ehlen, U. S. Army, presently the J-4 for CINCPAC. It turns out that General Ehlen is a classmate of Col. White's from West Point - 1933.

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2. General Ehlen reportedly said that CINCPAC is being cut back approximately 50% in their air lift allocation in the Far East and while MATS is taking up some of the slack, it appears that the total air lift available in that territory between the two combinations will be less than heretofore. General Ehlen is said to have indicated some dissatisfaction with the utilization of CINCPAC C-130 assistance by IDEALIST in the past - the usual argument - "a 500 lb cargo for a 26,000 lb capability". According to [] General Ehlen complained bitterly about the state of his air lift budget and then somewhat enigmatically said that in the future they (CIA) would not be getting it as "free as before". I shudder to interpret this as an oblique reference to the possibility that we may find ourselves enmeshed in the tentacles of our old friend Tab 6 again.

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3. Col. Geary was in my office when the call from Col. White came through and I briefed him on its general contents. Col. Geary stated that MATS already is responding to our requirements in the Pacific, and that as far as Ehlen's complaints about the budget went he - Col. Geary - was going to continue to direct CINCPAC to take such air lift costs out of their current year air lift budgets. I do not think this requires any action at present - unless and until we hear of someone in CINCPAC attempting to cost IDEALIST air lift to Tab 6.

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Handle via []

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4. It should be noted that Col. White said that [redacted] had been given this information by General Ehlen very much on the QT and that any direct response to CINCPAC would, of course, embarrass General Ehlen - not to mention [redacted]

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[redacted]

Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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DAD/OSA/JAC:mem

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